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-- REMARKS --

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, and were rejected under section 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,505,822 to Yamamoto et al. However, independent claims 1, 8 and 14 have been amended to recite that the periphery of the diaphragm is spaced apart from at least one of the upper or lower orifice plates. Yamamoto et al. '822 neither shows nor suggests this feature.

The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 8 or 14, and therefore this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested, and the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' attorney to discuss any remaining matters.


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Respectfully submitted,
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